

Amendments to the Claims

A detailed list of all claims under examination is shown below. Please cancel claims 1 – 43 without prejudice and add new claims 44 – 82 as shown below:

Claims 1 – 43 (Cancelled)

44. (new): A method for lubricating the passage of a container along a conveyor, comprising applying to at least a portion of the container-contacting surface of the conveyor a lubricant composition comprising a mixture of water and a concentrate suitable for dilution with water, the concentrate comprising a mixture of (i) at least about 0.8 wt. % of a water-miscible silicone material and (ii) a water-miscible lubricant comprising a polyalkylene glycol or hydroxyl-containing derivative of a polyalkylene glycol.

45. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the concentrate consists essentially of the water-miscible silicone material and water-miscible lubricant.

46. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the concentrate consists of the water-miscible silicone material, the water-miscible lubricant and water.

47. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the concentrate comprises about 0.8 to about 4 wt. % of the water-miscible silicone material.

48. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the water-miscible silicone material comprises a silicone emulsion.

49. (new): A method according to claim 48 wherein the lubricant composition is sufficiently free of surfactants so as not to cause an increase in stress cracking in a PET Stress Crack Test compared to a lubricant composition made without such surfactants aside from those that may be required to emulsify the water-miscible silicone material sufficiently to form the silicone emulsion.

50. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the water-miscible lubricant comprises a polyalkylene glycol.

51. (new): A method according to claim 50 wherein the water-miscible lubricant comprises a derivative of a polyalkylene glycol.

52. (new): A method according to claim 51 wherein the water-miscible lubricant comprises a partial ester of a polyalkylene glycol.

53. (new): A method according to claim 51 wherein the water-miscible lubricant comprises an ethoxylate of a polyalkylene glycol.

54. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the lubricant composition further comprises an antimicrobial agent.

55. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the lubricant composition has a total alkalinity equivalent to less than about 100 ppm CaCO₃.

56. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the lubricant composition has a total alkalinity equivalent to less than about 30 ppm CaCO₃.

57. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the water-miscible silicone material and the water-miscible lubricant are applied in amounts that (i) reduce the coefficient of friction between a polyacetal thermoplastic conveyor belt and blow-molded polyethylene terephthalate containers to less than about 0.14 and (ii) facilitate movement of such containers along a container filling line.

58. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the lubricant composition has a coefficient of friction less than about 0.14 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.

59. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the lubricant composition has a coefficient of friction between about 0.058 and about 0.126 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.

60. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the lubricant composition has a coefficient of friction less than about 0.1 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.

61. (new): A method according to claim 44 wherein the lubricant composition is applied intermittently.

62. (new): A method for lubricating the passage of a container along a conveyor, comprising applying to at least a portion of the container-contacting surface of the conveyor a lubricant composition comprising a mixture of water and a concentrate suitable for dilution with water, the concentrate comprising a mixture of (i) at least about 0.5 wt. % polydimethylsiloxane and (ii) a polyalkylene glycol or hydroxyl-containing derivative of a polyalkylene glycol.

63. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the concentrate consists essentially of the polydimethylsiloxane and the polyalkylene glycol or derivative.

64. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the concentrate consists of the polydimethylsiloxane, the polyalkylene glycol or derivative, one or more surfactants that emulsify the polydimethylsiloxane, and water.

65. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the concentrate comprises about 0.5 to about 8 wt. % polydimethylsiloxane.

66. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the concentrate comprises at least about 0.8 wt. % polydimethylsiloxane.

67. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the concentrate comprises about 0.8 to about 4 wt. % polydimethylsiloxane.

68. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition is sufficiently free of surfactants so as not to cause an increase in stress cracking in a PET Stress Crack Test compared to a lubricant composition made without such surfactants aside from those that may be required to emulsify the polydimethylsiloxane sufficiently to form a silicone emulsion.

69. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the concentrate comprises a polyalkylene glycol.

70. (new): A method according to claim 69 wherein the concentrate comprises a derivative of a polyalkylene glycol.

71. (new): A method according to claim 70 wherein the concentrate comprises a partial ester of a polyalkylene glycol.

72. (new): A method according to claim 70 wherein the concentrate comprises an ethoxylate of a polyalkylene glycol.

73. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition further comprises an antimicrobial agent.

74. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition has a total alkalinity equivalent to less than about 100 ppm CaCO₃.

75. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition has a total alkalinity equivalent to less than about 30 ppm CaCO₃.

76. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the polydimethylsiloxane and the polyalkylene glycol or derivative are applied in amounts that (i) reduce the coefficient of friction between a polyacetal thermoplastic conveyor belt and blow-molded polyethylene terephthalate containers to less than about 0.14 and (ii) facilitate movement of such containers along a container filling line.

77. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition has a coefficient of friction less than about 0.14 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.

78. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition has a coefficient of friction between about 0.058 and about 0.126 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.

79. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition has a coefficient of friction less than about 0.1 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.

80. (new): A method according to claim 62 wherein the lubricant composition is applied intermittently.

81. (new): A method for lubricating the passage of a container along a conveyor, comprising applying to at least a portion of the container-contacting surface of the conveyor a lubricant composition comprising a mixture of water and a concentrate suitable for dilution with water, wherein the concentrate consists essentially of a mixture of (i) at least about 0.8 wt. % of a water-miscible silicone material and (ii) a water-miscible lubricant comprising a polyalkylene glycol or hydroxyl-containing derivative of a polyalkylene glycol and the composition has a coefficient of friction between about 0.058 and about 0.126 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.

82. (new): A method for lubricating the passage of a container along a conveyor, comprising applying to at least a portion of the container-contacting surface of the conveyor a lubricant composition comprising a mixture of water and a concentrate suitable for dilution with water, wherein the concentrate consists essentially of a mixture of (i) at least about 0.5 wt. % of a polydimethylsiloxane and (ii) a water-miscible lubricant comprising a polyalkylene glycol or hydroxyl-containing derivative of a polyalkylene glycol and the composition has a coefficient of friction between about 0.058 and about 0.126 when evaluated using a Short Track Conveyor Test.